

Mr. Emil Moschella, chief
FOIPA Section
FBIHQ
Washington, D.C. 20535

1/17/87

Re improperly numbered No. 277,836

Dear Mr. Moschella,

I do appreciate and thank you for your letter of the 16th and the enclosed copy of the reprint of my Rohm & Haas article in the June, 1941 issue of CLICK.

Your second paragraph is a bobtailed account of FBI response to my PA request, of which you do not give the date. It was of more than a decade ago in its first form and was repeated several times. I do not recall that the telegram to the Director by Jim Lesar on my behalf was included in what was finally disclosed. You also do not state that when I received what the FBI did disclose I wrote both it and the Department providing exactly the information I gave you but without any response. This is to say that you, meaning not you personally, could have provided this a decade ago. If I were to hazard a guess it would be that other than the usual stonewalling one explanation would be that this is a fairly definitive refutation of all the poisonous misinformation, ranging from mere distortion and prejudicial angling to outright fabrication about me that the FBI did disclose, a matter to which I return below. I did this and the other work referred to in the editor's letter to the Director during what then was known as the shibboleth period of the Nazi-Soviet pact. It began much earlier than the February, 1941 reference in the article, the year before. This device was used by the magazine to hide the fact that after an earlier of my anti-Nazi exposes an employee wrote the magazine to tell me if you think they are Nazis, you ought to work here. There was an earlier article, on the Bata Shoe Co., and later ones in the series. If you have them or anything about them I would very much appreciate copies and they are within my earlier request and the appeals to which neither the FBI nor the Department ever responded. They are all anti-Nazi cartel exposes and in several instances, including this one, were followed by vesting of those corporations. (I do not allege a cause-effect relationship because I do not know whether or not that is justified.)

I am glad to get this and would like anything else that may exist because all of my records of that period were mislaid by my family while I was in the army. There was a reprinting of selections from the many letters the magazine received the next month and I would very much ^{like} them if the FBI has that issue or part of it. It did include something from Mr. Hoover's letter. It also included a photograph of me going into the office of the Department's then anti-trust chief, the late Thurman Arnold. I note that ~~the~~ special agent, later assistant director, R.E. Long, was involved in this correspondence. If he is still there he may remember me from some of the nasty stuff in one of his ticklers ultimately disclosed to me. The suggestion he included in Mr. Hoover's letter, that I give the government anything else of this nature I'd get, was followed. I don't recall the details but it led to my working with the anti-trust division. It also found no records. Quin Shea did lend me Joe Borkein's book on I.G. Farben in the belief that some of it wound up there. It did.

It is my understanding that the Privacy Act gives me the right to request the right to request the filing of what contradicts unfavorable information and that it thereafter be disclosed when there is any disclosure of what is unfavorable. I therefore ask that this letter and all of this CLICK material be included in all such files from which the FBI might disclose anything about me and I would appreciate a letter from you indicating that this has been done.

My recollection is not clear and as you may recall I am not in a position to do

much searching but I believe that there were more than this single CLIBK file and more than one in the 94 classification. The FBI has steadfastly refused to search and disclose anything in the 94 files in all my requests and litigation, even when I provided the correct file numbers. Those bearing numbers like what you provide seem to relate to writers by name. I would appreciate knowing that so I can add it to this material. I also would like to know the title of this file.

I do not recall whether I earlier indicated to you the reason I seek this and related information so I'll provide this explanation now. A fair amount of pretty nasty misinformation about me was not only disclosed, it was called to the attention of reporters who phoned me about it. It is now in the public domain and is readily available through the FBI's reading room. I want to not only be able to file corrections under PA, I want to leave them with all of my records for archival deposit. I do not want myself or my work to be judged in the future by the FBI's misrepresentations alone. So you, without personal knowledge, can understand this and its consequences, I illustrate with what happened when the LBJ White House inquired about books critical of the official JFK assassination investigation and their authors. Among the dirty stuff the FBI provided about me is the fabrication that my wife and I annually celebrated ~~in~~ the Russian revolution with a gathering for about 35 strangers at our home. The only time we ever had any number of people and any strangers was when the Jewish Welfare Board brought Washington area service personnel not to our home but to our farm, so the kids could gather eggs, see them hatch, play with the baby chicks and other stock and even ride on the backs of tame animals. This is quite the opposite of the nasty fabrication, to which the FBI later gave wider distribution, including to those who defended my FOIA litigation. What we then did was so attractive that the University of Maryland adopted it and called their version Old McDonald's Farm or something like that. Some subversion, huh?

Two other such matters about which I wrote both the FBI and the Department are prejudicial and, as stated in records the FBI disclosed to me, are not true. The underlying records were identified in what was disclosed and I provided their identification in my letters, which are still without any response. One is that I had a personal relationship with a Soviet national (the FBI's formulation, not mine) inside that embassy and the other is that someone from there visited me. I can, I think, make reasonably good guesses with regard to both. When I was CLIBK's correspondent I was there on a number of occasions and once the press officer suggested that we have lunch together. We did, around the corner, and I paid for my own meal. (Everyone in the press knew that the FBI was photographing those who entered and left from across the street, so you should have some pictures of me that you have not disclosed and for which you've not claimed any exemption.) The other all started with Richard Nixon and his so-called kitchen debate with Khrushchev, when they talked about peaceful competition. The USIA asked me to challenge the USSR to peaceful competition in poultry, and I did, and the USIA broadcast it, and then I heard from the State Department, with an official request that I do this and if possible assist them. (I had by then won first prize for the country in raising chickens.) I was arranging for the agricultural attache to inspect a small-town feed mill, there was some phone communication about this, but nothing ever came of it and I never even met the one to whom I'd spoken. I can see how a tap on their phones, which everyone knew existed, might have led an imaginative SA to embellish on the actuality. The FBI has disclosed the untruth and I still would like to receive the underlying records, whatever they may reflect about the nature of the disclosed paraphrases, which are very short.

I remember another matter in the appeals correspondence to which the FBI has never responded and it certainly exists. I was one of ten employees fired by the State Department in what amounted to a pogrom. It was under the unconstitutional McCarran Rider, no hearing, no charges, and then withdrawn and apologized for. One of the things that led to this change was an article in the New York Harald-Tribune by its Washington correspondent, Bert Andrews. (Other papers that published it include the Washington Post.) He interviewed Mr. Hoover, who had not a bad word to say about

any of us. I know that when the action was withdrawn and apologized for the Post did carry that and I believe that the FBI has this also. This is all within my earlier requests and appeals. I would appreciate the kind of search that does not avoid it, for the reasons stated above. Besides, it should have been disclosed to me to begin with.

This CLICK material, which does not bear my name, was routed to, among others, E.A. Tamm. He is the one who answered the phone when the late John Peurifoy called to tell Mr. Hoover that he'd fired me or gotten me and the others fired. Later, as Judge Tamm, he sat on some of my FOIA litigation. One never knows how, or if, the kind of records still withheld from me and those distributed, had consequences.

If you require any other information or leads please let me know.

I remember another thing about which the FBI has never responded. Or the Department. The Dies committee tried to frame me using the Washington representative of the Silver Shirts, David Dubois Mayne. I was interviewed by the FBI, I presume the Washington field office, but in the Justice main building, there was a hassle because I refused to sign the statement as drafted, and while I am not able to state that it is included in the records that did exist, I refused to sign and they refused to let me leave. So, I just sat. In the end they compromised by agreeing for me to phone my lawyer, Edgar Turlington. There may have been an accurate statement that I did sign, I do not now recall. But there was an FBI investigation, there was a grand jury in D.C., it did indict Mayne and refused to indict me, Dies copped a plea for him and his two years were suspended, and later, that was not enough for the FBI when it investigated him for security when he worked or applied for work in the then secret atomic energy -and bombs - industry, as I now recall in Arizona or New Mexico. These records, too, are within my earlier requests and appeals and as with the other such information, I hope you will respect their age and search now and not assign a new number.

If you are at all familiar with what I've described as the venomous stuff the FBI did disclose while denying me my rights under PA I think you can appreciate my interest in obtaining full disclosure and my desire to be able to include all of the records in the archive I'm leaving. You may remember from the depositions you attended that many years ago my health was not good. It is more seriously impaired now, I'll be 74 in a few weeks, so I think you can see the reasons for my desire that this be done fully and promptly.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg
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